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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/654,422	09/04/2003	Niraj Vasishtha	113631	7624
33047 7590 04/15/2009 GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC 55 SOUTH COMMERICAL STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03101				
EXAMINER HAIDER, SAIRA BANO				
ART UNIT 1796		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 04/15/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

10/654,422

**Applicant(s)**

VASISHTHA ET AL.

**Examiner**

SAIRA HAIDER

**Art Unit**

1796

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7.9.13-17.19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7.9.13-17.19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/26/2009 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 7, 9, 13-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brain (US 4,145,184) in view of Trexler, Jr. (US 6,162,857).
4. Brain discloses a detergent composition containing encapsulated perfume (abstract). The shell material surrounding the perfume core to form the microcapsule can be any suitable polymeric material which is impervious to the materials in the liquid core and the materials which may come in contact with the outer surface of the shell. The microcapsule shell wall can be composed of a wide variety of polymeric materials including polyester (col. 3, lines 38-50).
5. Wherein the microcapsule composition is a granular composition (i.e. powder) (col. 9, lines 46-61). The microcapsules are formed via coacervation (col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 8).
6. Brain fails to disclose the claimed structuring agent in the form of platelets, thus attention is directed towards the Trexler, Jr. reference. The Trexler, Jr. reference discloses polyester-platelet particle composite comprising; at least one polyester having dispersed therein a platelet particle dispersion comprising about 0.01 to about 25 weight percent platelet particles (abstract). The

platelet particles have a thickness of less than about 2 nm and a diameter in the range of about 10 to about 1000 nm (claim 2). The polyester- platelet particle composite of Trexler, Jr. reference exhibits improved gas barrier properties (col. 3, lines 19-23). Further the reference discloses the inclusion of typical polyester additives, such as antioxidants (col. 11, lines 42-47).

7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the polyester- platelet particle composite of Trexler, Jr. as the shell material in the microcapsule composition of Brain. The motivation is provided by the fact that the polyester- platelet particle composite of Trexler, Jr. improves gas barrier properties and the Brain reference desires to protect the core fragrance material throughout the laundering process (col. 2, lines 50-55).

8. Products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, since the prior art teaches the identical chemical structures for the core, structuring agent and the polymer material, the properties (pendant ionic groups, formation of an ionic bridge, and decrease in oxygen and water permeability) applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The burden shifts to the applicant to show an unobvious difference. Note that because the reference does not expressly teach or address the properties of the claimed invention, does not mean that the properties are not inherently disclosed. Teaching the same compound(s) inherently discloses the corresponding properties. The references cannot possibly teach or address all of the properties, but implicitly all of the properties are present.

9. In reference to claims 17 and 19, which specifies that the structuring agent forms an inner shell around the core and the polymer material forms an exterior shell around the inner shell. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form a dual layered microcapsule, wherein both outer layers comprise the structuring agent and the polymer

material, however, each layer comprises the components in different amounts. The motivation do to so is provided by the fact that a thicker coating will better protect the core material and decrease chances of undesired core release. Further, a variation in the amounts of components will further increase the strength of the core material. Either the inner layer or the outer layer can comprise a greater amount of the structuring agent and thus can be considered the structuring agent layer. The corresponding is true for the polymer material. It is the examiner's position that selection of which layer comprises a greater amount of either material is rendered result effective variables because changing them will clearly affect the type of product obtained. See MPEP § 2144.05 (B). Case law holds that "discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art." See *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

10. In view of this, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a greater amount of structuring agent in the inner layer so as to produce desired end results. Wherein it is clear that if the inner layer comprises a greater amount of structuring agent and the outer layer comprises a smaller amount of structuring agent, the gradient of claim 19 is obtained.

11. It is noted that the inner layer can be considered the structuring agent layer since it comprises the structuring agent, and the outer layer can be considered the polymer material layer since it comprises the polymer material.

### ***Response to Arguments***

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAIRA HAIDER whose telephone number is (571)272-3553. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James J. Seidleck/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

Saira Haider  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1796